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# Prosecutor in Rome Trial Denounces Bulgaria

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ROME, Feb. 15 — A Government prosecutor, summing up his case against three Bulgarians and four Turks accused of conspiring to assassinate Pope John Paul II, today denounced Bulgaria for harboring the conspirators and misleading Italian investigators in the case.

But the prosecutor, Antonio Marini, stopped short of accusing Bulgaria of planning the assassination attempt, as has been charged by the prosecution's chief witness, Mehmet Ali Agca, the Pope's convicted assailant.

"Who was this Agca?" Mr. Marini

shouted, his gaze fixed on several rows of Bulgarian diplomatic and justice officials observing the trial. "A convicted killer who had escaped from a maximum security prison in Turkey."

Mr. Marini recounted how Mr. Agca spent nearly two months in four hotels in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, using a badly forged Indian passport, in July and August 1980. That was the time in which he says he was first commissioned by the Bulgarians, through Turkish underworld figures, to kill the Pope.

## Withdrew Earlier Denial

The prosecutor said the Bulgarians first denied Mr. Agca was ever in Sofia,

and then — after Italian investigators supplied independent proof in the form of passports he used — acknowledged he was there from July 23 to Aug. 31, 1980.

"What kind of Indian was this?" Mr. Marini shouted, alluding to the Indian passport, issued to Yoginder Singh.

He also accused the Bulgarians of denying the presence of another Turkish accomplice of Mr. Agca in Sofia, despite evidence supplied by West German investigators corroborating Mr. Agca's statements that the men had met there. Mr. Agca maintained that he was given money by Omer Mersan, a Turkish businessman and suspected racketeer working in Munich, in July

1980 in a Sofia hotel.

Bulgaria initially denied Mr. Mersan was in Sofia at the time, but the West German police who detained him supplied his passport with Bulgarian customs stamps and hotel documents showing he had stayed in the hotel Mr. Agca indicated.

## Traveled to Border Town

The prosecutor also described how Mr. Agca, according to testimony of several witnesses, traveled on the night of Aug. 30, 1980, to a remote Bulgarian border town where he received a forged Turkish passport from right-wing Turkish associates. Bulgarian border officials stamped Mr. Agca's entry, and other officials stamped his exit from Bulgaria to Yugoslavia the next day as he made his way to Italy to try to kill the Polish-born Pope.

But the Bulgarian authorities were never able to supply customs records that should have accompanied any entry or exit across Bulgaria's closely controlled borders.

Mr. Marini said he sought to gather "all the objective elements of testimony, leaving aside Agca's claims, even if, as we move gradually forward, objective elements, testimony, and declarations by Agca dovetail in a disquieting manner."

The prosecutor is expected to conclude his summation in the coming week. Defense attorneys are then expected to present their arguments, contending that the case is based on the unreliable testimony of Mr. Agca, who has made bizarre claims in the past, such as that he is Jesus Christ.

The prosecutor, speaking without notes for nearly 16 hours over the last

two weeks, has outlined what he says was a wide-reaching conspiracy involving Turkish extremists harbored by Bulgaria who aided Mr. Agca in his effort to kill the Pope. Mr. Marini has never explicitly accused the Bulgarians, and it remains unclear whether he will seek the conviction of the three Bulgarian defendants — Sergei I. Antonov, the former Rome station chief of the Bulgarian state airline and the only Bulgarian in Italian custody, and two former Bulgarian diplomats now in Sofia whom the Bulgarians refused to extradite to Italy, claiming diplomatic immunity.

But Mr. Marini has been bitter and sarcastic toward the Bulgarians, accusing them repeatedly of giving misleading or incomplete information to Italy.